UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/438
S/1998/896
28 September 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 25 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 25 September 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 25 September 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 26 August and 15 September 1998 addressed to you by Greek Cypriot delegates at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding "violations of the national airspace of the Republic" (A/52/1024-S/1998/812 and A/53/393-S/1998/858, respectively).

I would like to recall that similar charges on so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 20 August 1998 (A/52/1019-S/1998/779). Since the present Greek Cypriot charges are of the same nature, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to reiterate, however, that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the South has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever.

These unfounded allegations made by the Greek Cypriot side are aimed at upholding the myth that it has sovereignty and jurisdiction over Cyprus as a whole. It is this mentality which has created and perpetuated the Cyprus question in the first place. As such, these allegations demonstrate how far removed the Greek Cypriot side is from coming to terms with any solution based on the full equality of the two sides in Cyprus. Hence, the Greek Cypriot side's rejection of the proposals made on 31 August 1998 by President Denktaş towards a viable and just settlement of the Cyprus dispute.

The said proposals have been made in good faith with a view to creating the basis on which negotiations between true equals can take place. This equality, which was enshrined in the 1960 Agreements, has always been the fundamental basis of the search for a solution in Cyprus in the exercise of the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The United Nations resolutions foresee a new partnership in Cyprus as the common home of the two peoples and contain elements pertaining to the absolute political equality of the two sides and a settlement which would be mutually acceptable. Furthermore, the proposals aim to uphold the external balance between Turkey and Greece over Cyprus and the internal balance between the two sides as established by the 1960 Agreements.

Meanwhile, the Greek Cypriot administration continues its policy of escalation and tension in the island. It is reported in the Greek Cypriot press that Army, Navy and Air Force units from Greece will join the Greek Cypriot National Guard in the Nikiforos and Toxotis military manoeuvres scheduled to take place in and around South Cyprus next month. Within this scenario, F-16 and A-7 warplanes from Greece will land at the Paphos military airbase in South Cyprus and Greek submarines, warships and frigates will also participate in what amounts to a new provocative show of force by the Greek-Greek Cypriot camp.

Emboldened by the support of Greece, the Greek Cypriot Defence Minister Mr. Omirou has stated the following:

> "Those who contemplate bringing pressure to bear in order to have the plans for the Nikiforos-98 military manoeuvres changed will be engaging in a futile effort. As was the case in previous years, everything planned within the context of the Joint Military Doctrine will be implemented with precision" (Greek Cypriot daily Tharos of 21 September 1998).

In view of the foregoing, all parties interested in a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus dispute should counsel the Greek Cypriot side to desist from its reckless policy of escalation and tension in the island and duly reconsider our proposals for a settlement, since under the present circumstances confederation is the only framework which can preserve the internal and external balances over Cyprus and as such foster and sustain a new partnership settlement between the two sides.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLUMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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